



State Representative David Labriola

LOCAL ISSUES

Funds For New Oxford, Southbury Senior Centers, Naugatuck Senior Center Upgrades

The State Bond Commission has awarded a \$750,000 grant to the Town of Oxford to construct an Oxford Senior Center. The facility will be built on 10 acres of town property at the base of Governor's Hill Road. The Bond Commission also awarded the Town of Southbury a \$600,000 grant to convert the former town library to a senior center. In addition, the Town of Naugatuck was awarded a \$39,000 grant through the state Department of Social Services to make improvements to the Naugatuck Senior Center, including replacement of windows, gutters, trim, masonry sealing and related improvements.

Seniors are the heart and soul of every community. The additional programs and services that will be made available through these grant funds represent an excellent investment for the state.

Funds For Oxford High School

With State Senator Louis DeLuca, I introduced legislation incorporated into Public Act 05-6 that guarantees \$1.6 million in state reimbursement for the Oxford High School project. Since voters approved this project, enrollment figures have increased and the town stood to lose state reimbursement funds. PA 05-6 updates enrollment projections and therefore, guarantees this funding will be provided to the town.

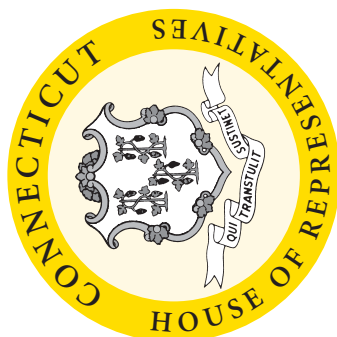


Representative Labriola speaks at the Naugatuck Hall of Fame's 2005 Induction Ceremony.

100 PERCENT VOTING/ATTENDANCE

State Representative David Labriola once again achieved a 100 percent voting and attendance record in the state House of Representatives for the 2005 Legislative Sessions. According to a statistical summary recently released by the General Assembly's House Clerks' Office, Rep. Labriola is one of only 10 House lawmakers to record a 100 percent voting and attendance record during the 2003-2005 legislative sessions. There are 151 members in the state House of Representatives.

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State Representative

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Proudly Serving the 131st District

Naugatuck★Oxford★Southbury



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2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative

DAVID LABRIOLA

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Rep. Labriola speaks
on the Floor of the
House during the 2005
Legislative Session.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Increased Penalties For Driving With A Suspended License,
And Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

Public Act 05-215 establishes strict penalties for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license. Under the new legislation, anyone convicted of a second incident of driving with a suspended license will serve a mandatory 30 day jail sentence. The court can also impose additional penalties for repeated offenses. In addition, current law requires an administrative license suspension process for drivers who refuse to submit to a blood alcohol test or whose test results indicate an elevated BAC (.08% or more or .02% or more if the driver is under age 21). The new law doubles the license suspension periods if the offender is under age 21. This increase also applies to nonresident operating privileges.

Graduated Drivers Licenses

The Legislature passed legislation to address problems with the state's 2003 graduated driver's license law, which was intended to limit the number of teenage passengers in vehicles driven by 16 or 17-year old drivers. However, that law also restricted families from riding in the same car if a new 16 or 17 year old driver is behind the wheel. Public Act 05-54 removes the limit on immediate family passengers when the new driver is accompanied by at least one parent or guardian. It also increases, from 8 to 20 hours, the minimum amount of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road training a 16- or 17-year old must have before qualifying for licensure.

In addition, this new law prohibits a 16- or 17-year old licensed driver from driving from 12:00 a. m. through 5:00 a. m. unless he or she is traveling because of employment, school or religious activities, or medical necessity. I supported PA 05-54 because statistics show graduated license laws have a positive effect. I'm hopeful that increased training and a prohibition on unnecessary driving in the middle of the night will go a long way toward reducing the number of accidents among our teen drivers.

Cell Phone Ban

Public Act 05-159 bans the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. Beginning October 1, 2005, the legislation prohibits drivers from using hand-held phones unless they are communicating an emergency situation to an emergency response operator, hospital, physician's office or health clinic, ambulance company, or fire or police department. Under the legislation, violations are punishable as infractions, with fines up to \$100.

SENIORS

Study of Elderly Housing Complexes

Public Act 05-239 will address concerns about state-assisted elderly housing projects. It requires state social service agencies to assist local housing authorities to identify and access their services and several agencies to develop plans detailing their outreach efforts, available services, and crisis intervention activities. The act also requires a comprehensive assessment of rental assistance needs for state-assisted elderly and disabled housing projects.

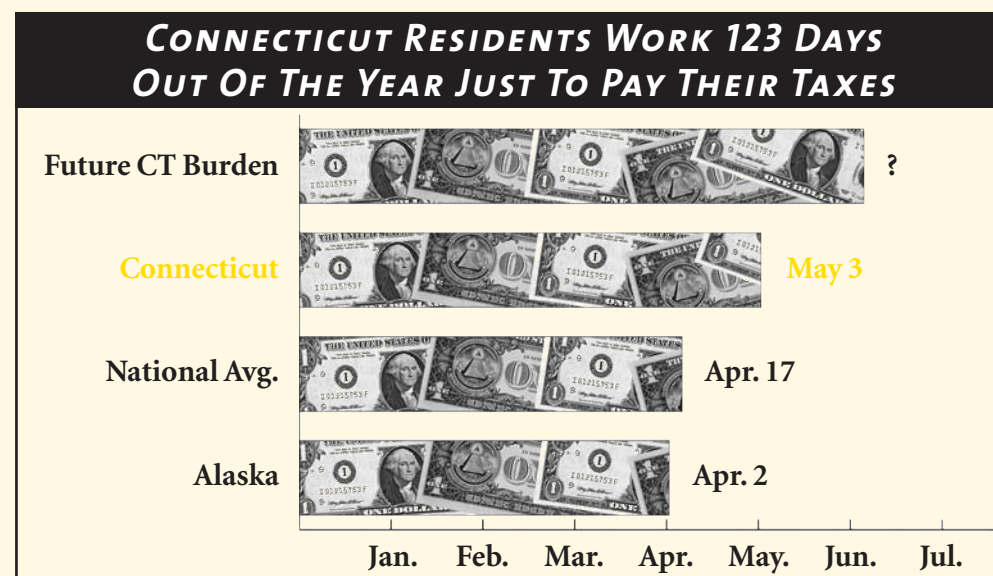
PUBLIC HEALTH

Patients' Rights

Public Act 05-128 requires hospitals to notify each patient in writing of his or her specific rights under the hospital's conditions of participation in Medicare. Notification must also inform the patient on how to file a complaint, including how to contact the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Coverage for Breast Cancer Screenings

Public Act 05-128 requires health insurance policies to offer ultrasound screening options for women with a family history of breast cancer. In 1999, the Legislature mandated coverage for mammograms. However, health authorities have noted that certain women can receive false negative results from a mammogram and their physicians often require additional testing for an accurate reading.



GOVERNMENT REFORM

Bidding Process For Large State Contracts

Public Act 05-286 contains an initiative that requires a competitive bidding process for state legal expenses exceeding \$250,000. Connecticut will now have information and public input on the hiring of outside legal counsel for large contracts, which is long overdue. This legislation ultimately ensures that taxpayers in Connecticut will know if they are getting value for services rendered.

New Ethics Board

In recent years, it had become clear that the existing configuration of the state Ethics Commission could not properly address alleged ethical misconduct by state officials. Public Act 05-183 abolishes the state's current nine-member State Ethics Commission (SEC) and establishes the Office of State Ethics (OSE) and a nine-member Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board as its successor. Establishing a completely new office, with better defined powers and structure, will help restore trust in state government.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Protection Against Identity Theft

Public Act 05-148 allows consumers to freeze their credit report and requires businesses to inform the affected consumers if there has been a security breach involving their computerized personal information. The law prohibits a credit rating agency from releasing a frozen credit report, or any information in it, without the consumer's express authorization. It authorizes most types of businesses to deem a credit application incomplete, and an insurer to deny an application, if it finds that a consumer's credit report is frozen.

SPENDING AND TAXES

New Tax Study

This year, the Legislature's Program Review and Investigations Committee commissioned a comprehensive study of Connecticut's taxation system. The study will recognize that Connecticut's state and local tax system relies heavily on a few major taxes to fund most state and local services. There has not been a comprehensive look at the entire system since the state income tax was enacted in 1991.

2005-2007 State Budget

I opposed the 2005-2007 budget package that was approved this year, which contained exorbitant spending increases (12 percent) and tax hikes (\$738 million). Our tax burden is too high (see graph on left). Based on a statutory formula, Naugatuck will receive \$27,548,419 in state funding, an increase of \$937,232; Oxford will receive \$4,506,882 in state funding, an increase of \$131,104; Southbury will receive \$2,022,110 in state funding, an increase of \$150,511.

BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2005
THE 2005 GENERAL FUND AND
THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND
TOGETHER SPEND \$14.4 BILLION

WHERE DOES
THE MONEY
COME FROM?

